

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel claims 1-12.

Insert the following new claims 13-16:

--13. (amended claim, a rewrite of claim 9) A rod and rake for collecting debris in a gutter having a plurality of spikes attaching the gutter to a roof,

a) the rake comprising a shaft extending axially from one end of the rod and including a center tooth and two side teeth,

the center tooth extending axially from the shaft of the rake,

(i) the two side teeth extending from the shaft of the rake in diverging relation to the center tooth and extending from the shaft of the rake a lesser distance than the center tooth,

(ii) the center tooth and each of the side teeth terminating in a slight downward curve to a forwardly extending end portion with an upwardly and rearwardly inclined flat bottom surface, and

(iii) the rake being small enough to be moved with the rod under the spikes in the gutter,

whereby the rod may be used to push the rake over debris and under spikes in the gutter to a desired point for collection of the debris and the rod may then be used to pull the rake against the debris.

1 --14. (amended claim, a rewrite of claim 11) A novel method for a workman
2 working from a single position to clean approximately twenty-four feet of
3 gutter supported by a plurality of spikes spaced approximately four feet apart
4 along the gutter and attaching the gutter to a roof, the method comprising:

- 5 a) providing the workman with a rod at least twelve feet in length,
- 6 b) providing a rake on one end of the rod,
- 7 c) the rake being small enough to be manipulated through the gutter and
8 beneath the spikes spaced approximately four feet apart responsive to
9 manipulation of the rod by the workman,
- 10 d) the workman positioning himself with at least twelve feet of the
11 gutter extending beyond each side of the workman, and
- 12 e) the workman manipulating the rod to rake in beneath the spikes
13 leaves and debris within twelve feet away from each side of the
14 workman.

1 --15. (amended claim, a rewrite of claim 12) A novel method to collect leaves and
2 debris in a single sweep in a gutter supported by a plurality of spikes, the
3 method comprising these steps:

- 4 a) provide a rod long enough to be extended under a plurality of the
5 spikes,
- 6 b) provide a rake on one end of the rod, the rake being small enough to
7 move under the spikes with the rod,

- c) manipulate the rod to place the rake in the gutter before one of the spikes with the teeth on the rake extending up,
- d) manipulate the rod to push the rake with its teeth extending up over leaves and debris in the gutter and beneath said one spike and beneath successive spikes to a desired point, and
- e) manipulate the rod to have the teeth on the rake extend down after the rake reaches the desired point and to pull the rake with its teeth extending down against the leaves and debris to said one spike.

--16. (new claim) A method for a workman to use when cleaning gutters three inches wide and three inches deep and having a plurality of spikes spaced approximately four feet apart, the method including the steps of:

- a) providing the workman with a long rod, a short rod and a scoop for the workman to carry with him while cleaning a gutter,
 - i) the long rod and the short rod each having a rake on one end and a hoe on the other end,
 - ii) the long rod being at least twelve feet in length and of a diameter enabling the workman to extend the long rod and its rake or hoe under a plurality of the spikes,
 - iii) the short rod being of a diameter and length enabling the workman to extend the short rod under only those spikes too near the workman for effective use of the long rod,

14 iv) the rakes and the hoes each being sized and shaped to be
15 manipulated through the gutter and beneath the spikes
16 responsive to manipulation of the rod by the workman,
17 b) the workman using the long rod and rake to collect leaves and debris
18 in the gutter by pushing the long rod and rake under a plurality of
19 spikes and over the leaves and debris to a desired point and then
20 pulling the rake against the leaves and debris to move them under
21 said plurality of spikes to within reach of the workman's scoop,
22 c) the workman using the long rod and hoe to collect debris remaining in
23 the gutter after raking in the leaves and debris between the workman
24 and said desired point by pushing the long rod and hoe under said
25 d) plurality of spikes and over the remaining debris and then pulling the
26 hoe against the remaining debris to move it under said plurality of
27 spikes to within reach of the workman's scoop, and
28 e) the workman using the short rod with its rake and hoe to collect
29 leaves and debris by moving the short rod and its rake or hoe beneath
30 spikes too close to the workman for effective use of the long rod.